



Scholarship Fund

The purpose of the MANA de Topeka Scholarship Fund is to assist Latina students in completing their higher education. These scholarships are available on a competitive basis to continue higher education for female students of Latino/Hispanic ethnicity.

Awards

MANA de Topeka will offer five (5) Scholarship Awards; one (1) in the amount of \$1,000, renewable for up to 4 years of undergraduate studies awarded to a 1st year student; and four (4) scholarships in the amount of \$1,000 for one year awarded to 1st year and returning students. The Judging Committee will have discretion as to which applicant receives the undergraduate renewable scholarship. The renewable scholarship will be given for four years at the beginning of the students Freshman year at a college or university. Students must be enrolled on a full-time basis in order to receive a scholarship. Awards will be made payable to the college, university, or school of the applicant's choice after they have been accepted for admission.

The award money is deposited in the designated school's financial aid office for use towards tuition, books, and other associated educational fees. Money is paid twice a year: \$500 for the fall semester, and \$500 for the spring semester.

Eligibility

- Latinas of any age, currently living in the Topeka area (Shawnee County) and preparing to enroll or re-enroll in a full-time community college, university, or technical school program are eligible to apply.
 - Students must have at least a 2.50 GPA.
 - All candidates must have demonstrated leadership and community involvement.
- All candidates must complete the full application and supply required documents including high school or college transcripts statement of goals, disclosure of financial status, and letters of recommendation.
- Applicants must have completed a **minimum of 10 hours of community service to improve** their community. A MANA de Topeka community service project would be applicable.

Selection

A Judging Committee created by the MANA de Topeka Scholarship Committee makes scholarship award decisions. The Board of Directors may be called on in cases that require additional votes.
Scholarship recipients will be announced in May of each year.

Each application is read and rated by the Judging Committee. From the higher rated applications, finalists are selected. Applications are evaluated on the following criteria:

- A short essay (see essay criteria) – 20% of Application
 - Academic achievement – 10%
 - Demonstrated leadership qualities – 25%
- Involvement and volunteer work with the community – 25%
 - Financial need description – 10%
 - Recommendation Forms – 10%

Essays

Please submit one essay. There are two topics of choice listed below. The essay of choice should consist of at least 250 - 300 words. Note: Applications with essays that exceed the maximum number of words will be disqualified.

1. As a Latina, what are your community commitment/leadership activities and what/who has motivated you to stay involved?
2. Imagine yourself five years from now. How do you believe you will have impacted the issues being faced in your community?

Deadline: Postmarked by March 30, 2009
Send to
MANA de Topeka
P.O. Box 703 * Topeka, KS 66601

Go to www.manatopeka.org for the scholarship application packet and complete eligibility guidelines.